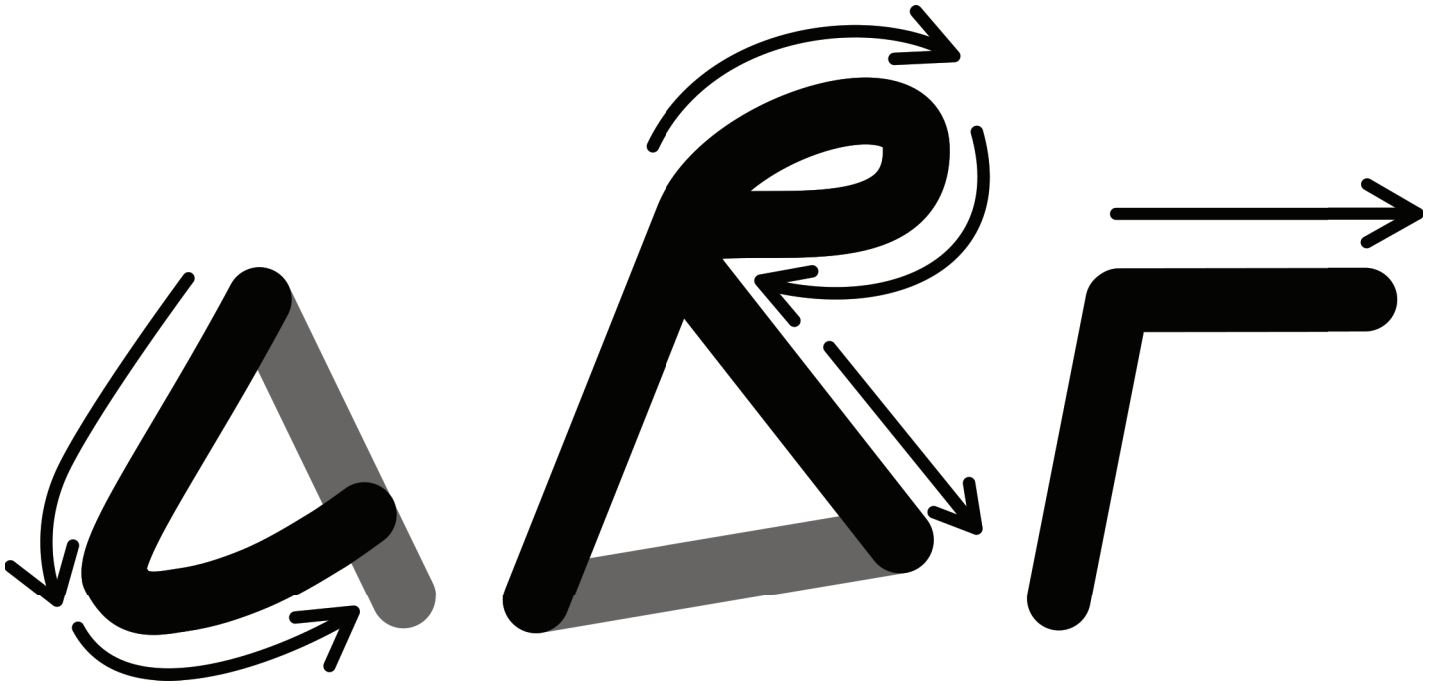


ⲛⲟⲛⲧⲉⲥⲥⲁ ⲓⲉⲥⲥⲓⲣ ⲫⲁ̈ⲓⲟⲩⲣ

This is how we write Nubian

Taras Press

About this book

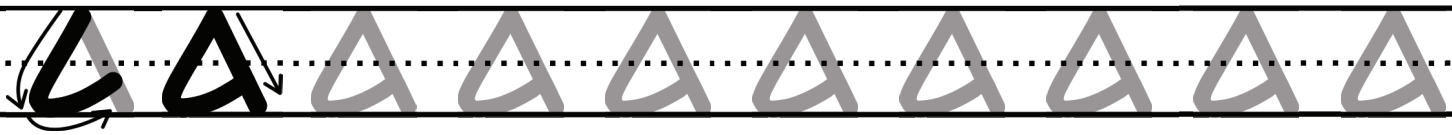
This workbook is a companion to "ⲁⲃⲅ: This is how we read Nubian," a book for teaching the Nubian alphabet that has been used to write the Nubian languages for centuries. The goal of this book is to teach you how to write each letter in the fashion that ancient Nubian scribes would have, while teaching some basic vocabulary along the way.

A note on the font

The Nubian text in this book is typeset in Sawarda, a font designed by Hatim Eujayl. The font is the first of its kind based on Old Nubian manuscripts and inscriptions from the 6th-15th century. The Old Nubian alphabet was based on Greek. However, Nubians wrote these Greek letters in their own unique way, and combined them with letters from Coptic and Meroitic to represent the sounds present in Nubian but not Greek. In that way, Sawarda serves as a reminder of many things: the long Nubian written tradition, the unique aesthetic qualities of Nubian, as well as the global nature of the Greek alphabet, which many Africans - like the Nubians and the Copts - made their own.

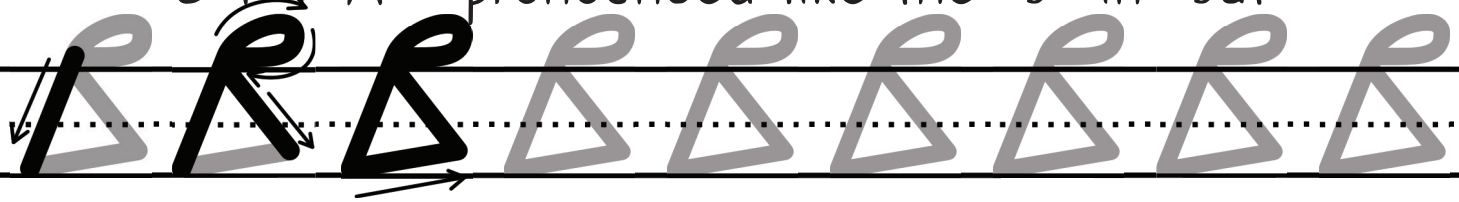
An alpha version of the font is publicly available on the Union for Nubian Studies' website, and we hope to see many, many more fonts for this ancient script which draw directly from this unique written legacy, especially fonts designed by the inheritors of this legacy, the modern Nubian people.

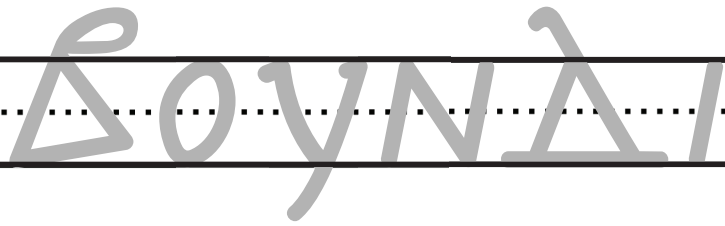
A L F A - pronounced like the "a" in "father"



AMAN: water

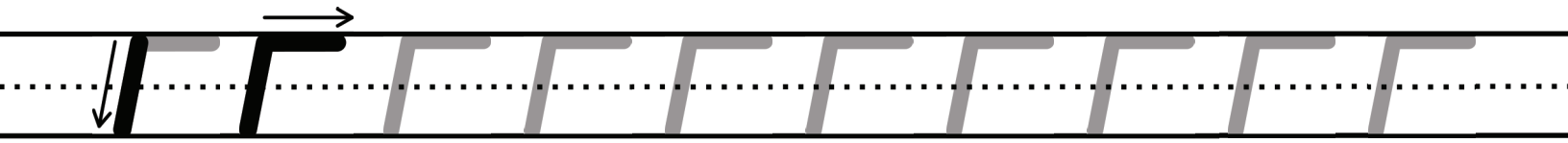
B I T A - pronounced like the "b" in "bat"





BOYNDI: grass

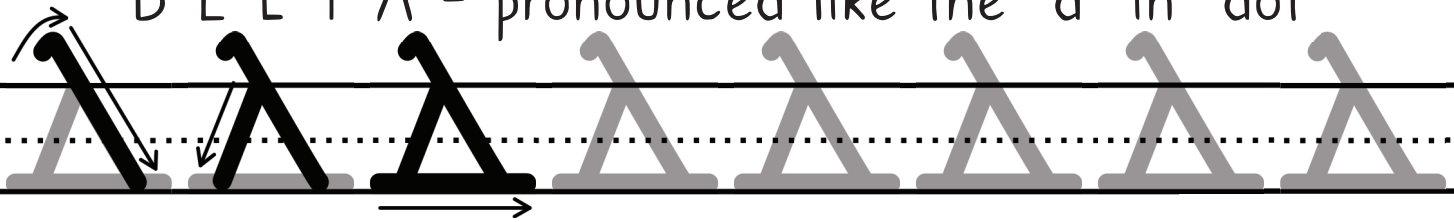
G A M M A - pronounced like the "g" in "good"



ΓΑΣΤΙ

ΓΑΣΤΙ: gas

D E L T A - pronounced like the "d" in "dot"



Δαρῑρα

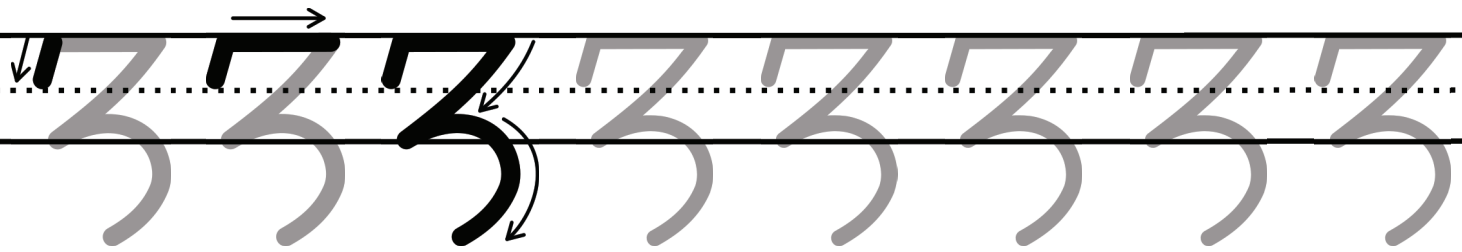
Δαρῑρα: butterfly

E P S I L O N - pronounced like the "e" in "cafe"

Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε

ΕΘΟΙΝ: scorpion

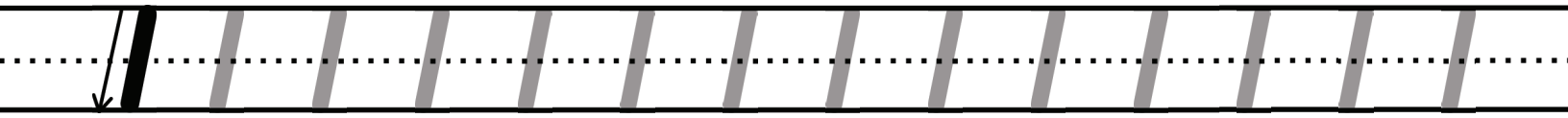
Z Ī T A - pronounced like the "z" in "zoo"



ZINNI

ZINNI: bee

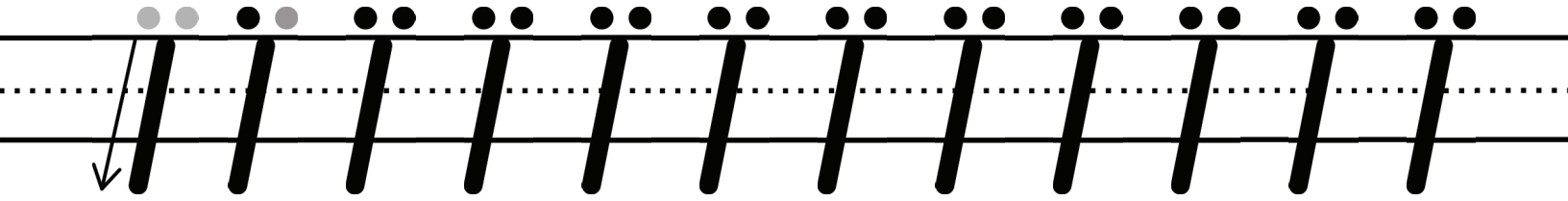
Y Ō T A - pronounced like the "ee" in "feet"



ipi

ipi: rope

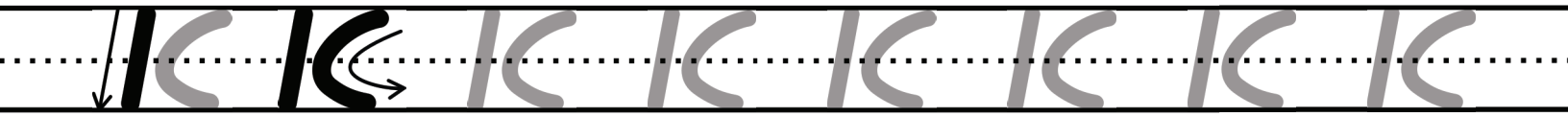
Y Ō T A N A S S I - pronounced like the "y" in "yes"



ōjē

ōjē: fruit

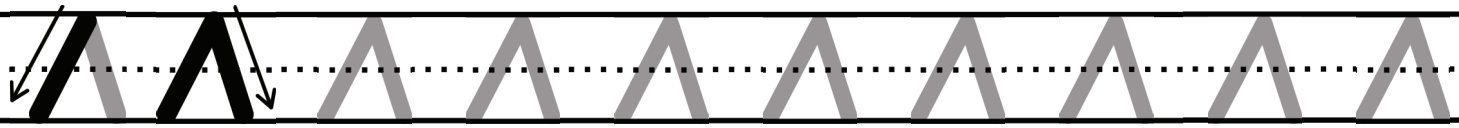
K A P P A - pronounced like the "k" in "kid"



ECCIN KĀT

ECCIN KĀT: eel

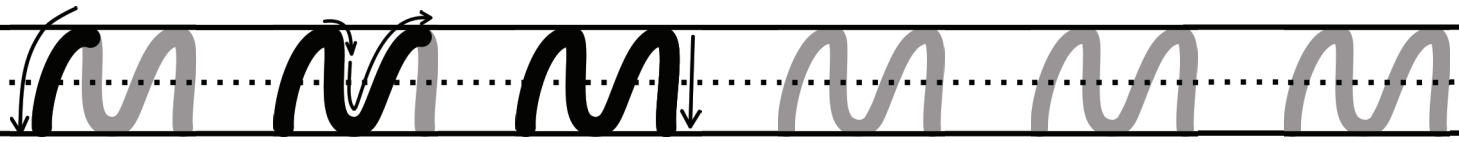
L Ā M D A - pronounced like the "l" in "lit"



μουλē

μουλē: mountain

M Ī - pronounced like the "m" in "me"



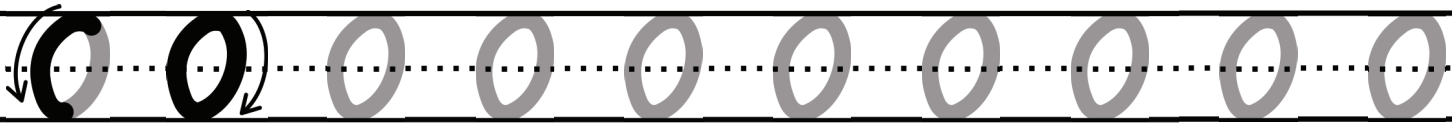
mīpī

mīpī: arrow

N Ī - pronounced like the "n" in "no"

NAB: gold

O M I K R O N - pronounced like the "o" in "hole"



δοδορῖν

δοδορῖν: watermelon

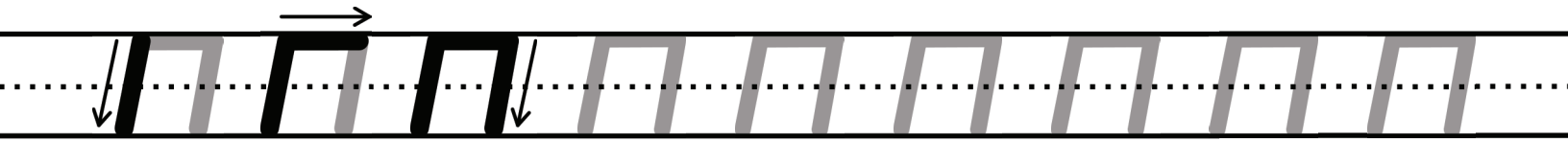
OMIKRON-UPSILON - pronounced like the "oo" in "boot"

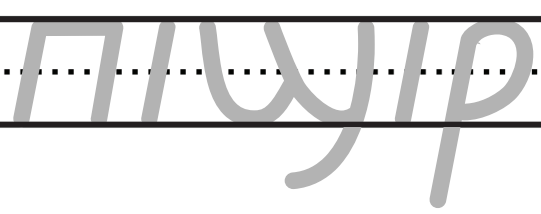
ου ου ου ου ου ου

ουρϲε

ουρϲε: roots

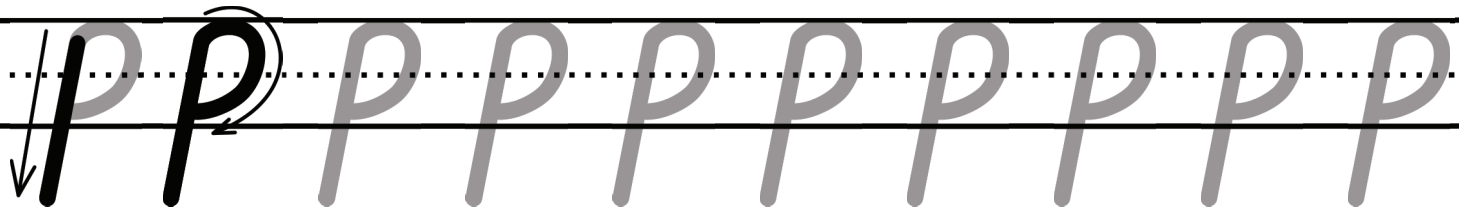
בּ בֿ - pronounced like the "b" in "big," or the "p" in "pat"

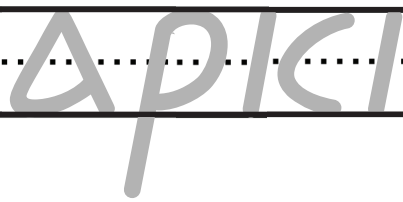




פּעפּער: feather

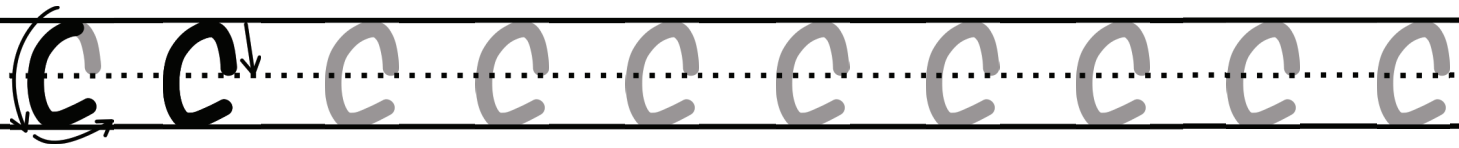
R Ō - pronounced like the "r" in "real"

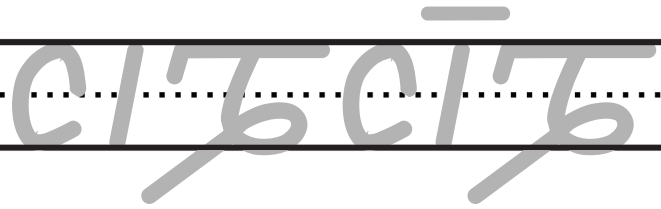




apici: mud

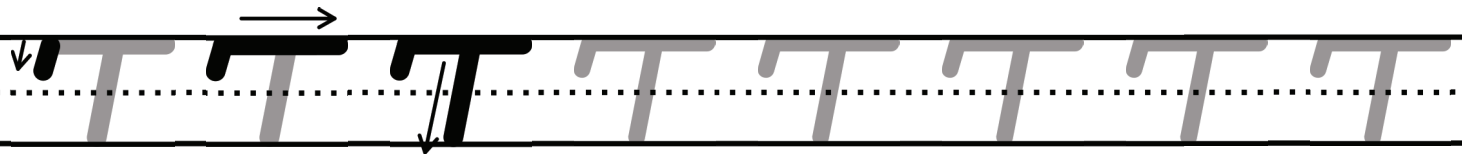
S I G M A - pronounced like the "s" in "sit"

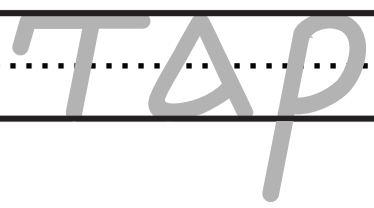




ϹΙϜϹΙϜ: chick

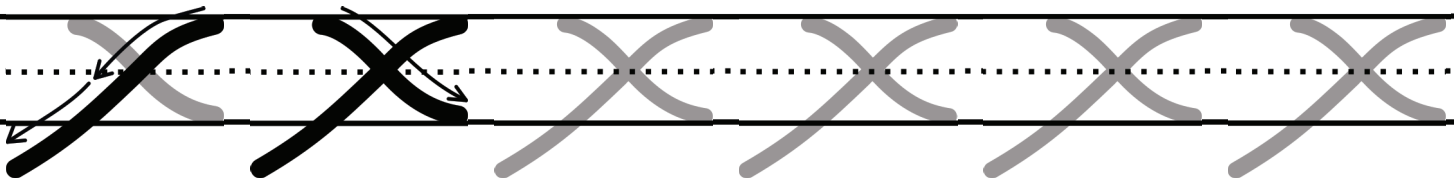
T Ā W - pronounced like the "t" in "tin"

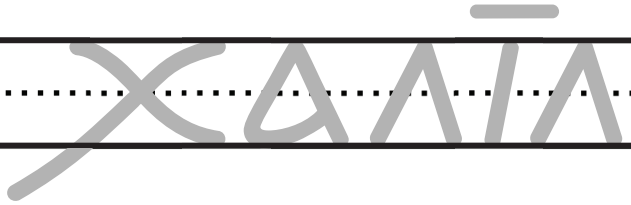


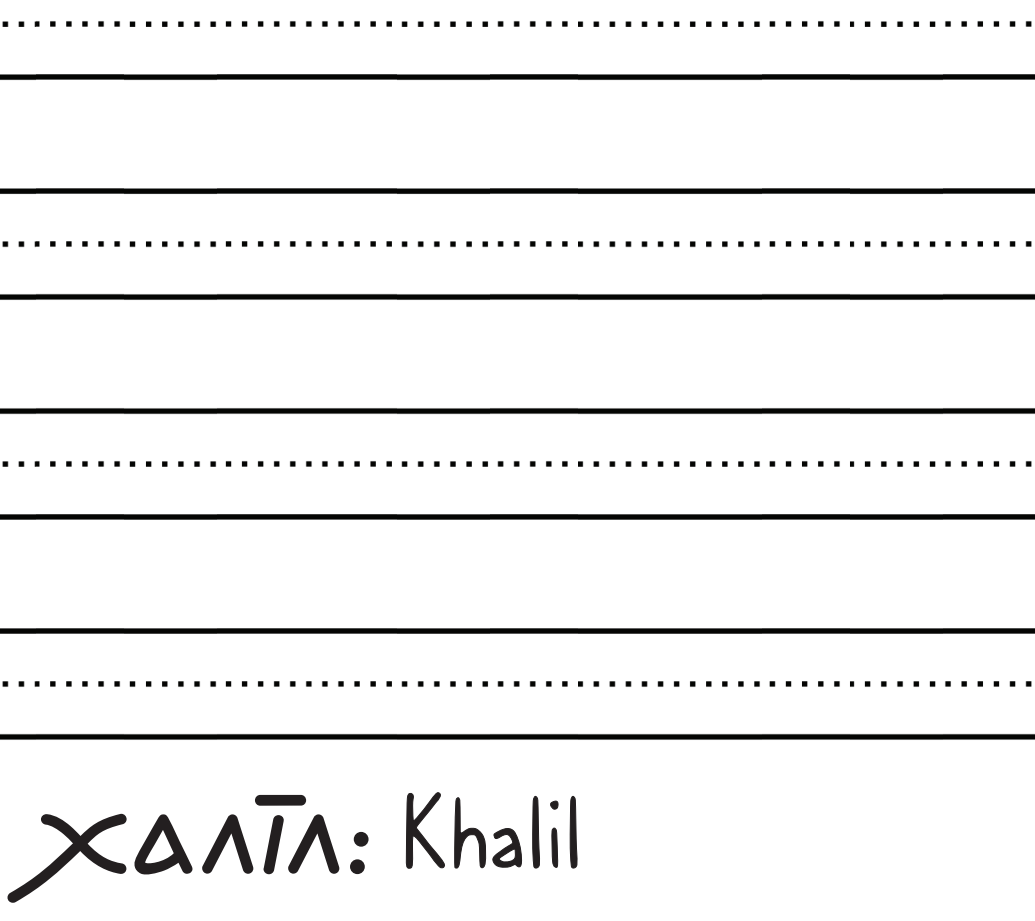


tap: he/she

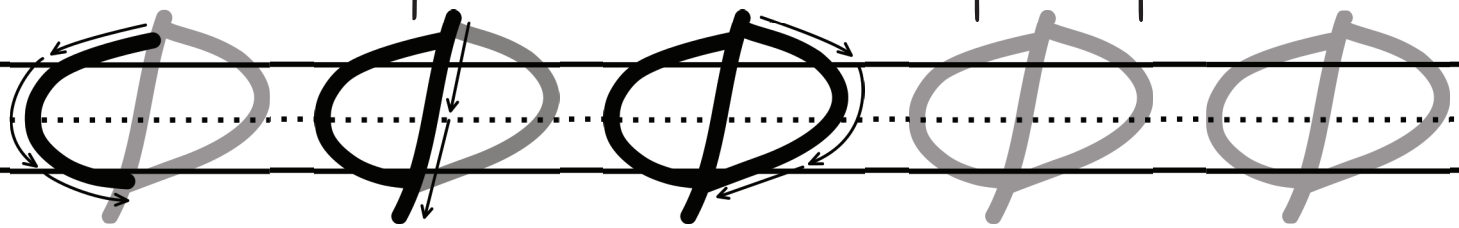
K H I - pronounced like the "kh" in "Khalid"

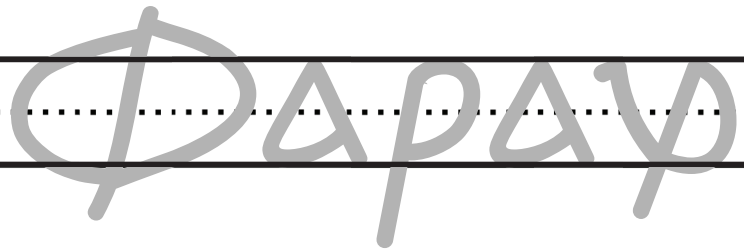






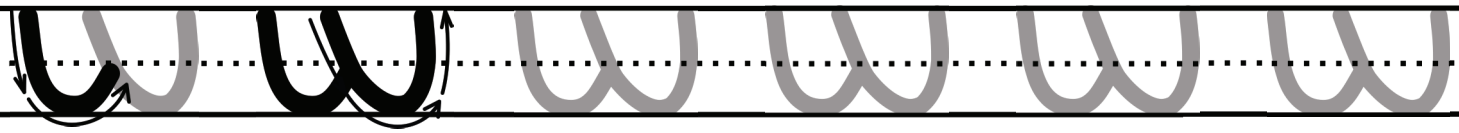
F Ī - pronounced like the "f" in "fit"

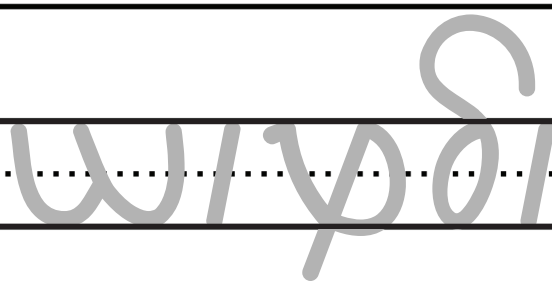




ᜇᜊᜌ: sword

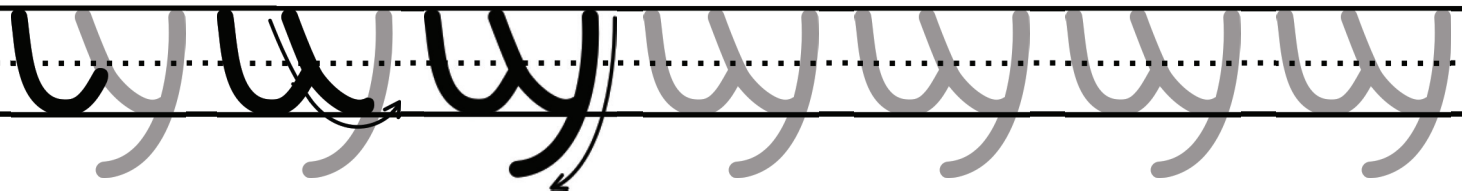
O M E G A - pronounced like the "w" in "went"

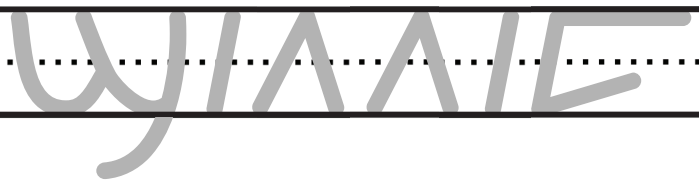




wɪɣδɪ: star

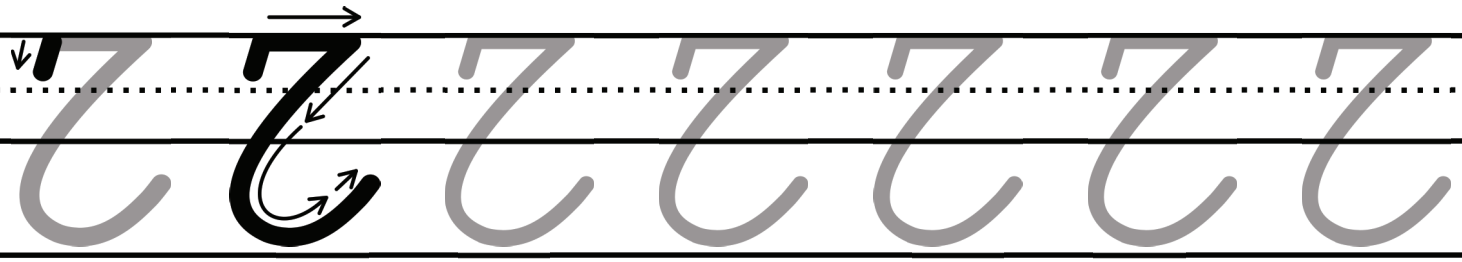
S H Ā I - pronounced like the "sh" in "short"





ᔐᐃᓴᓇᒃ: bell

H O R I - pronounced like the "h" in "hat"



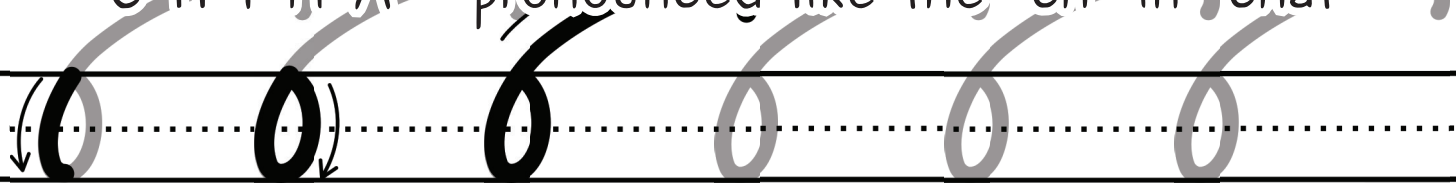
ҳалфа: Halfa

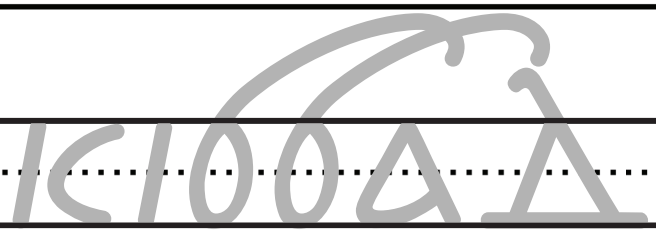
J I M A pronounced like the "j" in "jam"

δαικαρ

δαικαρ: fishing hook

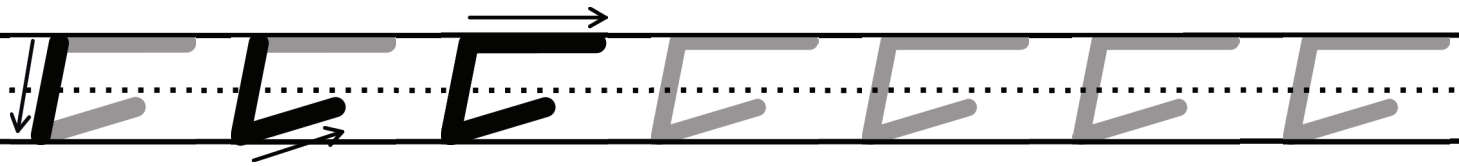
C H I M A - pronounced like the "ch" in "chat"

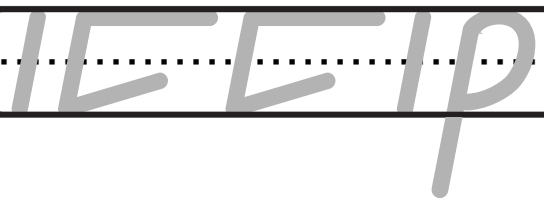




: gazelle

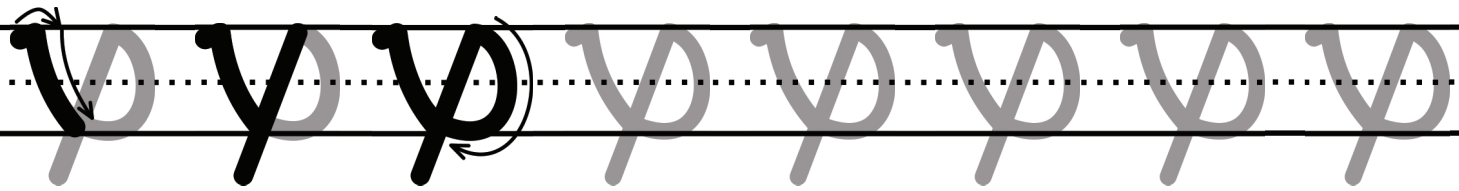
E N G M A - pronounced like the "ng" in "sing"

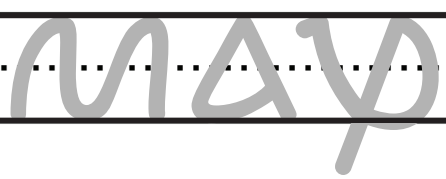




ENGMA: like this

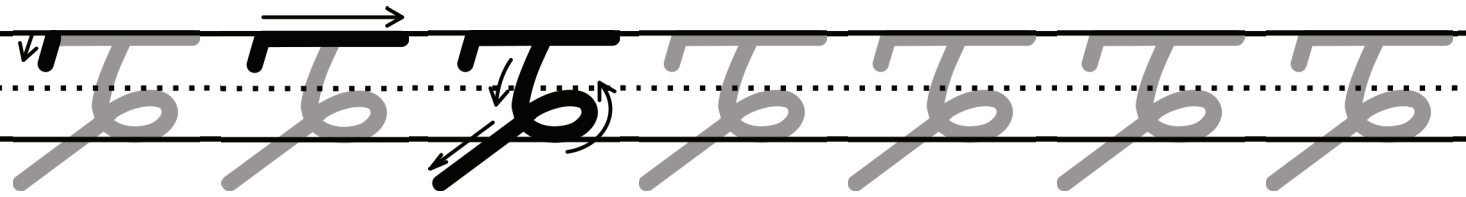
| Ñ | - pronounced like the "ñ" in "año"

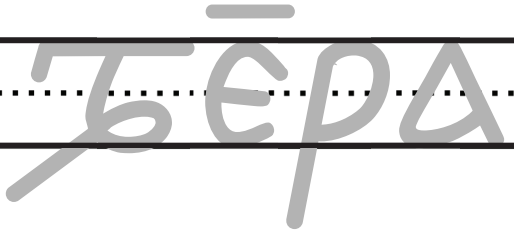




ᥒᥲᥡ: eye

W Ā W - pronounced like the "w" in "wait"



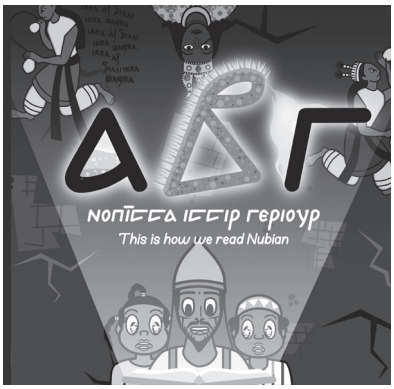


ⵜⵉⵔⴰ: one

More from Geri Fāi Ōmir

Sisters of the Water by K. Eltinaé

Zannooba, a young girl, comes across three cowrie shells by chance near the Red Sea, which magically transform into 3 wise mermaids who take her on unforgettable adventures through time and across the Nile Valley to better understand her heritage and place in the universe.



ⲁⲃⲅ: *This is how we read Nubian* by Hatim Eujayl

Come along with siblings Appa and Khalil as they learn how to read the alphabet that has been used to write Nubian for centuries, with the help of the ancient Nubian scribe, Yosefi. This book makes learning to read Nubian accessible for everyone, using the vocabulary of the Nubian languages that are spoken today.

The Miracle of Amanirenas by Hatim Eujayl

Set in a Nubia-inspired fantasy world, The Miracle of Amanirenas is a bilingual Nubian and English story of the founding of the Kingdom of Miggi, in which the Miggitan people look for a way to cope with (and ultimately resist) the tyranny of the Loman emperor with the help of a magical queen.